



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Kingston City Hall, Date: January 12, 2016
6:30-8:30pm**

Council Members:

Julie Noble (Chair), Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair) Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Elizabeth Broad, Lynn Johnson, Casey Schwarz

Guests: The Honorable Steven T. Noble, Mayor of the City of Kingston, Alanna Henneberry (Deputy Coordinator, Ulster County Dept of the Environment)

- I. **Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM. There was no formal public comment.
- II. **Special Guest: Mayor Steven Noble:** Mayor Noble reported on the meeting of the Water Board held earlier today and discussions concerning repairing the dam at Cooper Lake versus repairing and raising the dam. Mayor Noble, who has been attending meetings of the various city commissions, boards and councils, discussed the various application and operating procedures of same and is looking to make the application process uniform. The Mayor mentioned that a new grants manager position and a new business services position will replace the present position of Director of Office of Economic Development & Strategic Partnerships. Gregg Swanzey has resigned. Among the priorities for the new administration, the Mayor mentioned solar power and the Broadway projects that will be lead by the City Engineer. Regarding Parks and Recreation, it was discussed that Julie will take on more sustainability coordination while a new part time environmental education position will be created to execute the school and public nature programming. Additionally, the Parks Department has an intern for the spring semester from SUNY New Paltz who will be working with the long pending Climate Smart Kingston Commission establishment and procedures. Work required at City Hall was discussed including windows, the roof and rotunda and grant possibilities for same, Mayor Noble has discussed street tree policies with Sue Cahill, City Planner which policies will be reviewed by the Tree Commission and forwarded to the CAC for comment. Mayor Noble reported on his meeting on the Comprehensive Plan with the Planning Dept. and the planning consultants. Under the previous administration, the consulting contract with Shuster and Turner was increased by \$50K to cover zoning which will include form-based codes and possibly inclusionary zoning for affordable housing. The Mayor indicated that he will shortly announce the hiring of a new corporation counsel. As part of the Mayor's public outreach efforts a new and more substantive City of Kingston newsletter will be produced and distributed monthly
- II. **Review and Approval December 2015 Meeting Minutes** Upon motion made by Casey, and seconded by Lynn, the minutes to the December 8, 2015 as amended were unanimously approved.
- III. **Election of Secretary:** Upon motion made by Lynn and seconded by Casey, the election of Kevin McEvoy as Secretary was unanimously approved.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - a. **Natural Resources Inventory (NRI):**
 - i. **Updates on status:** Kevin gave an update on Matt's progress and various problems that are being resolved including city-owned property, historic mapping, and Julie's list of edits.

ii. SUNY New Paltz Intern information, internship goals: Krista Micelli is the new intern. The scope of her work will include finalizing maps, mapping of trails by GPS, reviewing maps from a third party perspective, reviewing other NRI and attending weekly NRI calls.

iii. Hudson River Estuary Program grant update: Julie reported that the NRI grant will be coordinated through a new grants manager that will be a new City position. We need to track our volunteer hours and Julie will provide us with a tracking form. Laura Heady can provide advice on what to include in an RFP.

iv. Public input process: Emilie observed that the maps were still up at the Kingston Library on January 9th. Laura Heady from Hudson River Estuary Program can advise on NRI interpretation and public input.

v. NRI Webinar: A Climate Smart Communities webinar on creating a NRI will occur on January 14, 2016 from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon. Link for this and other webinars is at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/84359.html>

b. Hudson Riverport Brownfield Opportunity Area: Kevin reported on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) coastal policy consistency review, he is working on for the Heritage Commission.

c. Wood Burning/Air Quality: Lorraine Farina was unable to attend. Topic was tabled after discussion concerning establishing a committee to review this topic.

d. Pilgrim Pipeline Updates: Julie reported on the Mayor's letter concerning lead agency. A question has arisen regarding involved agencies.

V. New Business

a. Prospective New Members; Julie contacted several City residents to see if they would like to serve on the CAC. Lorraine Farina has submitted an application,

b. 2015 CAC Report: Julie reviewed the format with the Council and asked for submissions of information that may not be in the minutes such as planning board reviews, letters of support, professional development, other organizations to which the various members belong.

c. Planning for 2016

i. Schedule of meetings: Meetings to remain on second Tuesdays of each month.

ii. Topics of focus for 2016: A strategy for addressing and prioritizing the following topics was discussed: wood burning subcommittee formation, city trees, the anaerobic digester, form-based codes, NRI and a follow up on plastic bags once the county Styrofoam policy is fully implemented.

VI. Announcements/Communications

1. Regional Urban CAC Roundtable: Laura Heady will coordinate this event on February 6.

2. Building UC Together - Energize NY Launch: This event will be hosted by Ulster County on- January 27, 8:00-9:30am.

VII. Reports

a. Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Liaison (Emilie Hauser): Emilie discussed the December meeting. A new EMC chair will need to be selected now that Steve Noble is in office as Mayor of Kingston. Alanna discussed phase out of microbeads based on federal legislation. The issue of whether the County must charge a fee for electric car charging stations was resolved by the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce agreeing to pay the cost.

b. Planning Board Liaison (Casey Schwarz): Casey reported nothing new on the planning Board agenda. Kevin reported on a recent Kingston Daily Freeman article on Kingston Meadows (link below):

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/general-news/20151217/kingston-zoning-board-extends-variance-for-hurley-avenue-senior-housing-project>

c. Public Safety Liaison (Lynn Johnson): The December 2015 meeting was the last for the 2014-15 Common Council. Public concern over smart meters was on the agenda.

d. Comprehensive Plan Liaison (Julie Noble): This was covered during the discussion by Mayor Noble (see above).

e. Solarize Kingston Liaison (Betta Broad): 2016 efforts will begin shortly.

f. Climate Smart Kingston Commission (Julie Noble): Topic was covered under the Mayor's discussion above.

VIII. **Adjournment:** Upon motion duly made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the Council unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:48 pm.

Mission: Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.